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I think there's another promise that we need to keep to the teachers of Nebraska and that's the master teacher program that also was enacted last year with loan forgiveness. As a matter of fact, I have an amendment pending to LB 305 that would provide a million dollars for the master teacher program. This is a \$5,000 annual bonus for teachers that reach...achieve a certain level of national certification. I mention this just to reinforce the idea. There's no trickery here. There's no bait and switch. There's no attempt to substitute incentive programs for the proposals in LB 305. It's all part of a comprehensive package to help teachers in Nebraska. I do believe that as I say to bolster our own credibility we ought to at least keep the promises we've already made. We ought to honor the commitments we've made to teachers in addition to trying to go further as we are in LB 305. So I simply urge my colleagues to do what you did last year and that is fund the loan forgiveness program and vote against this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise to really provide some information and I think one of the difficulties that we are all having at this point is that the bill passed last year, the funding was vetoed, and now we're looking to do the funding this year. And it's difficult to remember exactly how that program was set up last year. But during the course of discussion last year, we also did something else and this is what Senator Raikes alluded to a few minutes ago and that is the AmeriCorps Program. And that was, as you recall, a last minute kind of amendment to an education bill. And what it did, it set up a unique program here in Nebraska that is actually being used as a model now in other states across the country. And it actually gives teachers or would-be teachers a \$4,700 credit on their tuition. They can either use it for future, present or future education or they can use it to pay off student loans. And it's \$4,700 a year. They can qualify up to two years for it. And as of this year, there are currently 432 members in the corps and during the 2001-02 program year, it is anticipated that they will enroll about 750 teachers. And I guess one of my questions is has anybody looked at the broad picture? I think this was what Senator Raikes was